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MANCHESTER MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN SALE OF CRACK COCAINE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono today **announced** that Shane Sylvester, 24, of Silver Street in Manchester, New Hampshire, pleaded guilty in the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire to two counts of distributing crack cocaine to an undercover police officer. Each of the counts relates to a separate sale of crack cocaine that Sylvester sold to an undercover officer in February, 2002.

This was Sylvester's second federal conviction for distributing crack cocaine. In December 1998, Sylvester was sentenced by the United States District Court to 30 months imprisonment after pleading guilty to three counts of distributing crack cocaine.

A sentencing hearing will be held on May 1, 2003, at the United States District Court. As a repeat offender, Sylvester faces a statutory maximum sentence of 30 years, a maximum fine of \$2,000,000, and a minimum period of six years supervised release after his term of imprisonment.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case is part of the continuing effort by the Manchester Police Department and the New Hampshire State Police Narcotics Investigation Unit to fight the distribution of illegal drugs in our state's largest city. Our Project Safe Neighborhoods and Streetsweeper initiatives demonstrate our commitment to removing the scourge of drugs from the streets and to remove as a presence, in our cities and towns, those who engage in the sale of illegal substances." Assistant U. S. Attorney Don Feith handled this case.